In the Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) In a local area network comprising a
plurality of terminals configured for running client applications
and connecting to the Internet, and each of said plurality of
terminals including packet routing software having the ability to
control dividing a request for information from a content server
issued by one of said plurality of terminals into a plurality of
packets, and to distribute the plurality of packets via the local
area network to others of said plurality of terminals, a method
of sending data over a communications network, the method
comprising the steps of:

    (a) upon activation of each of said plurality of terminals,
each said terminal sending a message to at least a reconstitution
server to indicate that said terminal is active;

    (b) generating a request for information from a content
server coupled to a wide area network by an originating active
terminal, said originating active terminal coupled by means of a
local area network to each of said other of said plurality of
active terminals;

    (c) each active terminal periodically sending a first status
message to the other of the plurality of terminals in the local

area network and to a reconstitution server to indicate that it

is active;

(d) dividing the request for information from a content

server into a plurality of packets by said originating active

terminal;

(e) the originating active terminal selectively

distributing, under control of its packet routing software, the

plurality of packets between a first plurality of active

terminals in the local area network by means of a first

communication path internal to and forming the local area

network, each of said first plurality of active terminals having

a second communication path, said second communication path

comprising an associated wide area connection directly to the

Internet, said associated direct wide area network connection to

the Internet of a at least a first one of said first plurality of

active terminals in the local area network different from an

associated, direct, wide area network connection to the Internet

of at least a second one of said first plurality of active

terminals, the plurality of packets being distributed between

active terminals over the local area network;

(f) each of said first plurality of active terminals

transmitting each of said first plurality of packets received by

a given active terminal during step (e) over its associated,

direct, wide area connection to the Internet to said

reconstitution server coupled to the Internet, such that the

originating active terminal shares the bandwidth of the

associated, different wide area connections to the internet of

said first plurality of active terminals; and

    (g) the reconstitution server receiving the plurality of

packets from said first plurality of active terminals in the

local area network via said at least a first and second of said

associated, different and direct wide area connections,

reconstituting the plurality of packets into said request for

information from said content server issued by said originating

active terminal, and sending the reconstituted plurality of

packets to the content server as said request for information;

    (h) the content server sending content data to the

reconstitution server in response to the request received in step

(g), the data being sent as a plurality of content data packets;

    (i) the reconstitution server distributing the plurality of

content data packets to the first plurality of active terminals

over the respective wide area connections;

    (j) the first plurality of active terminals sending the

plurality of content data packets to the originating terminal

over said first communication path internal to and forming the

local area network under control of their respective packet

routing software; and

    (k) the originating terminal receiving the plurality of

content data packets to re-create the content data.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1~~2~~,
wherein in step (e) and/or step (i), the plurality of packets are
distributed to the first plurality of active terminals in a
round-robin basis.

4.   (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the
round-robin distribution of the plurality of packets is weighted.

5.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4,
wherein the round-robin weighting is determined in accordance
with the bandwidth of the respective wide area connection between
the terminal and the Internet.

6. (Currently Amended) A communications network comprising;

a plurality of terminals configured for running client
applications and for connecting to the Internet, each of the
plurality of terminals including packet routing software and
being connected to one another by a local area network, and at
least some of said terminals having an associated, different and
direct wide area connection to the Internet, said plurality of
terminals each having the ability to divide a request issued by
one of said plurality of terminals into a plurality of packets
and to distribute the plurality of packets to other ones of said
plurality of terminals via the local area network under control
of its packet routing software;

a reconstitution server, coupled to the Internet and a
plurality of content servers,

wherein, in use, each active terminal periodically sends a
first status message to the other of the plurality of active
terminals in the local area network and to said reconstitution
server to indicate that it is active;

wherein an originating terminal in the local area network
generates a request for one of the content servers , divides the
request into a plurality of packets and distributes the plurality

of packets between a plurality of active terminals via the local area network; and

wherein each of said plurality of active terminals sends packets received to the reconstitution server via each said at least some terminal's separate associated and direct wide area connections such that the originating terminal shares the bandwidth of the separate associated wide area connections of said at least some of said active terminals, and wherein the reconstitution server sends the plurality of packets to the content server

wherein, in use, and responsive to the reconstitution server sending the plurality of packets to the content server, the content server sends content data to the reconstitution server in the form of a plurality of content data packets;

the reconstitution server distributes the plurality of content data packets between the plurality of terminals over the respective associated, different and direct wide area connections;

the plurality of terminals route the plurality of content data packets to the originating terminal; and

the originating terminal receives the plurality of content data packets and re-creates the content data.

7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Previously Presented) The communications network according
to claim 6, wherein one or more of said plurality of terminals
has more than one respective wide area connection.

9.   (Previously Presented) The communications network according
to claim 6, wherein the local area network comprises one or more
terminals, further to said plurality of terminals, not having a
wide area connection.

10.   (Previously Presented) The communications network according
to claim 6, wherein each of the active terminals in the local
area network comprises a list identifying the other active
terminals.

11.   (Cancelled)

12.   (Previously Presented) The communications network according
to claim 10, wherein an active terminal sends a second status

message to the other terminals in the local area network prior to becoming inactive.

13-15. (Cancelled)